

## **CLAIMS:**

1. In a percussion instrument having a head, a shell, a rim member with a plurality of openings, a plurality of tension lugs, and a plurality of casings, the improvement comprising a bushing, the bushing being sized to fit into at least one of the plurality of openings in the rim member, and the bushing being configured to accept the tension lug as the tension lug is inserted into one of the plurality of openings in the rim member and into one of the plurality of casings to thereby tighten the rim member to hold the head in position on the shell.

2. The bushing of Claim 1 wherein the bushing functions to reduce the friction coefficient between the rim and the tension lug.

3. The bushing of Claim 2 wherein the bushing functions to keep vertical axial tension loads perpendicular to the upper surface of the rim to reduce the tendency to creating a bending moment in the tension lug as the tension lug is tightened.

4. The bushing of claim 3 wherein the bushing is in the general form of a hollow high hat that includes a disc-shaped portion in combination with a cylindrical tube portion such that an inside diameter of the disc-shaped portion matches an inside diameter of the cylindrical tube portion and the disc-shaped portion is located at an end of the cylindrical tube portion such that the inside diameter of the disc-shaped portion is axially aligned with the inside diameter of the cylindrical tube portion.

5. The bushing of Claim 4 wherein the bushing is made from a friction reducing metal material.

6. The bushing of Claim 5 wherein the bushing is made from brass.

7. The process of inserting a bushing into a percussion instrument having a head, a shell, a rim member with a plurality of openings, a plurality of tension lugs, and a plurality of casings, comprising the steps of:

sizing the bushing to fit into at least one of the plurality of openings in the rim member; and

configuring the bushing to accept at least one of plurality of tension lug as the tension lug is inserted into at least one of the plurality of openings in the rim member and into at least one of the plurality of casings to thereby tighten the rim member to hold the head in position on the shell.

8. The process of Claim 7 further comprising the step of enabling the bushing to reduce the friction coefficient between the rim member and at least one of plurality of the tension lugs.

9. The process of Claim 8 further comprising the step of enabling the bushing to tend to keep vertical axial tension loads perpendicular to the upper surface of the rim member.

10. The process of Claim 9 further comprising the step of enabling the bushing to tend to reduce the propensity to create a bending moment in at least one of the plurality of tension lugs as the tension lug is tightened.

11. The process of Claim 10 further comprising the step of manufacturing the bushing in the general form of a hollow high hat that includes a disc-shaped portion in

combination with a cylindrical tube portion such that an inside diameter of the disc - shaped portion matches an inside diameter of the cylindrical tube portion and the disc-shaped portion is located at an end of the cylindrical tube portion such that the inside diameter of the disc-shaped portion is axially aligned with the inside diameter of the cylindrical tube portion.